

# What's New in the MPDC

JANUARY 6, 2003

## MAYOR SAYS PUBLIC SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY DURING HIS SECOND TERM IN OFFICE

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In his Inaugural Address this past week, Mayor Williams said that improving public safety will be one of the top three priorities of his second term, along with boosting education and expanding opportunities for DC residents. Calling the increase in the homicide rate during 2002 “not acceptable,” the Mayor promised to “continue our progress in bringing the crime rate down in the District and bringing it down in our neighborhoods.” Highlighting by name several outstanding community policing volunteers, the Mayor said that more police officers in DC neighborhoods and greater community involvement were critical to neighborhood safety. He urged more residents to join Neighborhood Watch groups, walk with Orange and Red Hat patrols, participate in PSA meetings or become an MPDC Reserve Officer. “I’ve heard how important it is for you to build a strong, working relationship with the commanders and officers that serve your community. I will be your partner as we work to make our neighborhoods safe,” the Mayor said. The Mayor said his public safety plans also include expanding drug treatment and continuing to be vigilant in the face of the terrorist threat that DC continues to face. Read Mayor Williams’s complete second Inaugural Address, “One City, One Future,” at:

*For more ideas on how you and your neighbors can answer the Mayor’s call for community policing volunteers, click on [mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved2.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved2.shtm).*

[www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) (Click on Mayor’s Inaugural)

## HOMICIDE RATE IN DC INCREASES IN 2002; CLOSURE RATE IMPROVES SLIGHTLY

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After declining by nearly 50 percent over the past decade, the number of homicides in DC rose by approximately 12 percent in 2002. Preliminary figures indicate there were 262 homicides recorded during 2002, compared with 233 in 2001, a jump of 12.4 percent. The number of homicides rose in six of the seven police districts in DC; in the Third District, murders declined 48 percent, from 31 in 2001 to 16 in 2002. July (33), November (31) and October (30) were the deadliest months during 2002; the fewest murders occurred in April (12) and September (16). Ninety-one percent of murder victims in 2002 were African-American, 4 percent were Latino, 3 percent were white and 2 percent were other races/ethnicities. Firearms were used in nearly 77 percent of last year’s murders; knives were used in approximately 12 percent of the homicides. These percentages are comparable to previous years’ totals. For an up-to-date homicide count in DC, plus general trend information over the past 10 years, go to:

*The homicide closure rate in DC rose to nearly 55 percent in 2002, up from just 50 percent in 2001. A total of 143 murder cases were closed during 2002.*

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on Crime Statistics)

## CHARGES FILED IN JAIL STABBING CASE; ARREST WARRANT ISSUED IN HOMICIDE OF MARINE

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This past week saw developments in two high-profile homicide cases under investigation by the MPDC. On New Year's Eve, charges were filed against a 21-year-old DC Jail inmate in the fatal stabbing death of another inmate in December 2002. An investigation by the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch, assisted by DC Department of Corrections authorities, resulted in Dominic Donte Jones being charged with Murder One While Armed. Also this past week, the MPDC issued an arrest warrant for a 22-year-old man wanted for the December 21, 2002, homicide of a man near the Insomnia nightclub in downtown DC.

Carlos Almanza is wanted for First Degree Murder in the beating death of 21-year-old Josiah Fulton, a Marine from Georgia who was stationed in DC. For more information about this case, and to view photos of Almanza, log on to:

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

*The MPDC continues to offer a \$10,000 reward to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any homicide committed in DC, and the DC Crime Solvers program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 in other cases. View some of "DC's Most Wanted" at*

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on Crime Solvers)**

## TOYOTA CAMRY, DODGE MODELS AT THE TOP OF DC's "MOST STOLEN VEHICLE" LIST

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Toyota Camry and Dodge owners beware: recent reports show your vehicles are the most frequently stolen in DC. The "Top 10" list developed by the MPDC's Auto Theft Unit includes the following models in rank order: 1) Toyota Camry; 2) Dodge Neon; 3) Dodge Intrepid; 4) Dodge Stratus; 5) Dodge Caravan; 6) Honda Accord; 7) Chevy Caprice; 8) Jeep Cherokee; 9) Chevy Tahoe; and 10) Chrysler Sebring. Auto theft detectives and other police officers are stepping up efforts to encourage all vehicle owners – but especially owners of these models – to take some common-sense steps to help protect their vehicles. In addition to locking all doors and windows – every time – and to parking in well-lit areas, auto theft prevention specialists encourage vehicle owners to consider steering wheel locks, audible alarms and other visible or audible deterrents. Vehicle immobilizers

and tracking systems provide even more protection against auto theft – a crime that has increased in DC each of the last two years. Get more auto theft prevention tips – including information on the free "Watch Your Car" vehicle theft prevention program – by going to:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtml)**

*For information on stolen vehicle trends in other jurisdictions and nationally, visit the National Insurance Crime Bureau at:*

**[www.nicb.org](http://www.nicb.org)**

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**